

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION
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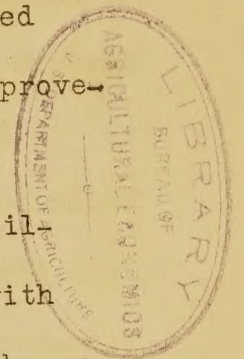
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PROVISIONS OF SOIL CONSERVATION
PROGRAM FOR NORTHEAST REGION

Under the soil conservation program as applied to the Northeastern region, payments will be made for two separate types of soil-building and soil conservation. Farmers who adopt approved soil-building and soil-conserving practices such as pasture improvement will be eligible for payment to be known as soil-building payments. Farmers who transfer land from soil-depleting to soil-building or soil-conserving crops or practices in accordance with provisions of the program will be eligible for payments to be known as soil-conserving payments.

Opinions expressed by farm leaders and extension workers in the region indicate that a considerable proportion of the Northeastern farmers who will participate in the soil conservation program will do so because of the opportunities offered for establishing approved soil-conserving and soil-building practices in line with sound farm management principles. This is particularly true among dairymen of the region who have indicated that through the aid offered under the program, practices designed to improve pastures and hay crops may be put into effect on their farms.

What constitutes approved soil-conserving and soil-building practices remains to be decided for each state so that whatever approved practices may be adopted will conform to local requirements. The state committee for each state will recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture for his approval soil-conserving and soil-building practices and rates of payment which, in their opinion, will accomplish the purposes of the program.



The total soil-building payments for new seedings of soil-building crops and for carrying out approved soil-building practices will not exceed the soil-building allowance for any farm. This maximum allowance is an amount equal to \$1.00 for each acre of crop land used in 1936 for soil-conserving and soil-building crops. On farms having less than 10 acres of soil-conserving and soil-building crops on crop land in 1936, the maximum allowance will be \$10.00.

For each cooperating farm there is to be determined, as a basis for establishing the amount a farmer may be paid for diverting land from soil-depleting to soil-conserving crops, a base acreage of soil-depleting crops. In general, subject to certain adjustments, this base acreage of soil-depleting crops is to be the acreage of such crops harvested in 1935. Payments will be made on each acre of this base which, in 1936, is used for the production of any approved soil-conserving crop or soil-building crop, or is devoted to any approved soil conservation or building practices. This payment is limited in general to 15 percent of the base acreage.

The rates of payment to be made to farmers who transfer land from the soil-depleting base to approved soil-conserving or soil-building crops, remain to be worked out within each state, each county, and for each farm. Although a national average rate of \$10 per acre has been established on the basis of the productivity of all crop land in the United States, it is expected that the average rate of payment in the Northeastern states will be considerably higher than the national average because of the generally higher productivity of crop land in the region. Likewise, the average rate of payment made on many individual farms within the Northeastern region, may exceed the

regional average. The maximum acreage for which payment on this basis will be made is 15 percent of the farm's base acreage of all soil-depleting crops except tobacco.

No payment will be made on any farm unless minimum acreage requirements of soil-conserving crops are met in 1936. The minimum requirement is that the total acreage of soil-conserving and soil-building crops on crop land shall at least equal either (a) 20 percent of the farm's soil-depleting base or (b) the maximum acreage on which a soil-conserving payment can be obtained. For crops other than tobacco the maximum is 15 percent.

Calculation of the rates of the soil-conserving payments specified for the United States has been based upon an estimate of available funds, and the assumption that approximately 80 percent of the farmers of the country will participate in the program. If participation in any region is greater than had been anticipated for that region, the rates of payments specified for the region may be reduced on a pro rata basis, but not in excess of 10 percent.

If, on any farm, the 1936 acreage of any soil-depleting crop or group of soil-depleting crops is greater than the farm's base acreage for such crop or group of crops, a deduction from any payment specified under the program will be made for each acre of the excess acreage.

For each county the ratio of soil-depleting crop acreage to all farm land will be established by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration from available statistics. The average of the ratios of the soil-depleting base acreages which are established for all farms in any county

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must conform to the county ratio, unless a variance from such ratio is recommended by the state committee and approved by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

The base acreage for tobacco for a farm will be the base acreage which was established, or could have been established, for that particular farm under the procedure for the 1936 tobacco adjustment program. However, land which is included in the tobacco base but was in other soil-depleting crops in 1935 cannot be counted twice in establishing the total soil-depleting base for the farm.

The soil-conserving payment for the land transferred from the tobacco base acreage to approved soil-conserving and soil-building crops will be based on the normal yield per acre of tobacco for the farm. For Connecticut Valley types 51 and 52 tobacco, the payment will be at the rate of 4 cents per pound of the normal yield, and for Pennsylvania and New York types 41 and 53, or any other kind of tobacco grown in the Northeastern states, the rate of payment will be 3 cents per pound of normal yield. The maximum acreage on which the payment will be made has been set at 30 percent of the base tobacco acreage for the farm.

The total base acreages and average yield computed as a basis of payment for tobacco for farms in any county or other specified area is not to exceed the base acreage and average yield for tobacco established for such county or other specified area by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

Any person who has reason to believe that he has not received an equitable base may request the county committee to reconsider its recommendation. If a satisfactory adjustment is not made, an appeal may be made in accordance with rules prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

For purposes of the program in the Northeastern region, crops produced on farms within the region have been classified into soil-depleting crops, soil-conserving crops, soil-building crops, and a neutral classification which is not to be counted in establishing bases. Application may be made by any state committee for revision of the classification to meet conditions within the state.

Soil-depleting crops will include such crops as corn; tobacco; Irish potatoes; sweet potatoes; all commercial canning and truck crops; small grains if harvested for either grain or hay and not used as a nurse crop for legumes; annual grasses if harvested for hay or seed; and summer legumes if harvested as grain or hay.

Soil-conserving crops include such crops as annual legumes when pastured or harvested for hay or seed; annual grasses when pastured or left on the land; perennial grasses without nurse crops or with nurse crops when such nurse crops are pastured or clipped green; winter cover crops, pastured or not, and turned under as a green manure; and crop acreage planted to forest trees since January 1, 1934, and not pastured.

Soil-building crops include such crops as annual legumes when turned under as a green manure crop; biennial legumes and perennial legumes without a nurse crop or with an approved nurse crop when prescribed soil-building practices are carried out; and forest trees, planted in 1936, and not pastured.

Changes in the use of land which involve the destruction of food, fiber, or feed grains will not be approved as either soil-conserving or soil-building uses of such land.

Payments or grants in connection with the soil conservation program will be made only upon application filed with the county committee. Each person applying for a grant will be required to show (1) that work sheets have been executed covering all the land in the county owned, operated, or controlled by him, and (2) the extent to which the conditions upon which the grant is to be made have been met.

The purpose of the work sheet, which applicants for payments or grants are required to fill out, is to obtain a survey of farming conditions and practices, and to facilitate the planning of farming operations which include desirable soil conservation practices and the determination of bases from which grants will be measured.

Provisions are made for participation of tenants as well as by farm owners.